

**Remarks by Ms. Shanchita Haque, DPR and CDA A.I of Bangladesh Permanent Mission as a  
panelist at 6th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development  
Item 5 (d) of the Provisional Agenda  
Implementation of the mandate and programme of work  
Wednesday 2 November 2022, 11h – 13h Central European Time**

H.E. Ms. Hend Abdalrahman Al-Muftah, Permanent Representative of Qatar  
Mr. Mihir Kanade, Chair of the Expert Mechanism,  
Excellencies, distinguished delegates,  
Good morning.

At the outset, I would like to thank the EMRTD for inviting Bangladesh to this session on the LDCs. I would also like to express our sincere appreciation for Qatar for hosting the LDC5. I would also like to take the opportunity to wish Qatar all the best in holding the World cup Football.

As you are aware, the least developed countries (LDCs) confront severe structural impediments to sustainable development. They are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and mostly enjoy low levels of economic and human assets. Of greatest concern is that one in every three people in LDCs still live in extreme poverty.

The ongoing multiple crises and their cascading impacts are affecting LDCs severely and disproportionately. The COVID-19 pandemic, protracted conflicts, and climate emergencies are heavily distressing the least developed countries, hitting the poor and vulnerable, worsening inequality, and leaving development goals out of reach for many. Millions of people are now pushed into poverty. Disrupted education is likely to have a lasting negative impact on countries' recovery and development. It is estimated that between 8 to 9 years of the development gains of LDCs and other low-income countries are wiped out.

While many advanced economies deployed massive fiscal stimuli to cushion the pandemic's impact and have applied adjusted health measures, the policy response in least developed countries was much more limited owing to weak fiscal conditions, major supply chain and logistic challenges, weak resilience capacity and limited global support.

Mr. Chair,

For the millions of girls, boys, women and men living in least developed countries, development is one of the most urgent human rights imperatives. They also believe that the right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person is entitled to enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political development.

In order to realize the RTD, among others, States have obligations to collectively forge partnerships at global and regional levels. Similarly, the RTD also entails obligations on individual countries to consider the impacts of their policies on persons within as well as beyond their jurisdiction.

Mr. Chair,

It is a matter of grave concern that the lack of or slow progress in LDCs is the inevitable consequence of the failure to operationalize the right to development in achieving the SDGs, in particular the means of

implementation. I would like to share with you some recent figures in the area of partnerships which will speak for themselves:

- ODA is only 0.09 percent of the GNI of the OECD countries or \$31 billion in 2021 against the historical target of 0.15-0.2 percent.
- FDI is only \$28 billion in 2021 which is less than 2 percent of the global share.
- Proposals by many developing countries at WTO seeking a temporary waiver of certain intellectual property rights guarantees under the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights have been strongly opposed by developed countries.

Unsurprisingly, almost all the means of implementation targets had been grossly underrealized since 2015. That downward spiral has further accelerated since the beginning of 2020 with the world brought to its knees by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. These two phenomena have exposed existing fault lines in global solidarity and international cooperation and also reinforced the importance of operationalizing the RTD during and in the aftermath of the pandemic. Calls for global solidarity and shared responsibility can only materialize if actions by States are underpinned by the duty of international cooperation and not viewed through the lens of charity.

The RTD must be operationalized across all stages of development cooperation, including planning, programming, implementation, monitoring, follow-up and review.

It is urgent to implement appropriate measures including debt relief, timely and complete fulfilment of ODA and aid-for-trade commitments, and provision of other bilateral and multilateral financial support while respecting the policy and governance space of recipient States.

Mr Chair,

The Doha Programme of Action, adopted by consensus at the first part of the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs in March 2022, lays out specific goals, targets and commitments by LDCs and their development partners to secure fast recovery from the pandemic, build resilience against future shocks and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In the DPoA, the LDCs and their development partners have committed to building peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights including the right to development. The DPoA also acknowledged that the Member States are guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties.

The assertion by the Member States to be guided by human rights treaties underpinned that the realization of the DPoA is grounded on the implementation of the provisions of the international human rights treaties including the right to development. The DPoA can be realized only through a credible, effective, and universal commitment to the means of implementation based on the normative framework of the right to development, especially the duty of international cooperation.

Mr Chair,

Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development can play an important role to support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action. The Expert Mechanism may consider developing a new accountability

framework for the implementation of the DPoA targets, especially those related to partnerships, in line with the provisions of the Declaration on the right to development. The Mechanism can dedicate some time and resources in this context and work collectively with the UN-OHRLLS and other relevant UN entities.

Elaboration, adoption, and ratification of a legally binding instrument on the RTD also deserve serious consideration. Expert Mechanism, Intergovernmental Working Group on the right to development and the Special Rapporteur on the RTD can work together in this regard.

The LDC graduation is determined by a set of criteria comprising certain thresholds under the GNI per capita, Human Asset Index and the Economic Vulnerability Index. The CDP can look at the graduation criteria and examine how the criteria and indicators be linked with the provisions of the RTD. I would also like to add here that LDCs lose all LDC specific benefits and support measures after their graduation. This has the potential to hamper their development aspirations as well as efforts. Close attention should be paid to this situation so that the graduated countries continue to receive support for a specific period even after their graduation.

In closing, let me underscore that to effectively fight the current pandemic and future ones, LDCs, their development partners and other stakeholders should work together through international cooperation, global solidarity and shared responsibility based on the principles of the 2030 Agenda, DPoA and the human rights treaties including the Right to Development. The Expert Mechanism can be pivotal in establishing a linkage between the DPoA and the RTD. My delegation would stand ready to work closely with all key partners in this regard.

I thank you.